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Qd. 4. 1901









REPORTS  
OF THE  
AUDITORS  
AND  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF GILMANTON,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
FEBRUARY 26, 1859.

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CONCORD:

BUTTERFIELD & MERRIAM, PRINTERS.  
1859.



## AUDITORS' REPORT.

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We have examined the accounts, orders and vouchers presented to us by the Selectmen and Town Treasurer, and find the following to be the result.

We find the Treasurer has paid the following sums by order of the Selectmen:

### PAID OUTSTANDING ORDERS.

Paid school districts for school money due 1857,	\$43 89
" Zacheus Peaslee, for services as selectman 1857,	80 51
" Alvah Foss, for services as selectman 1857,	85 37
" Zacheus Peaslee, "                 " 1856,	73 04
" B. B. Lamprey,                 " 1857,	89 00
" Joseph B. Durrell, land for road,	84 49
" Isaac B. Sanborn,                 "                 "	212 20
" Kinsley Hall,                 "                 "	48 00
" Thos. Durrell,                 "                 " (balance)	102 83
" H. W. Peaslee, for money hired,	430 60
" E. S. Gilman, for services on town farm,	146 46
" John K. Woodman, for money hired, "                 "                 "                 "	343 20
"                 "                 "                 "                 "	17 62
" H. Sibley & Co., for Doreus A. Paul,	80 00
" Simon Clough, for repairing old roads,	4 82
" H. E. Marsh, for stationery 1855,	1 00
" John Kimball, for bridge plank,	8 31
" Luther Page, for                 "                 "	6 00
" Otis French, for medical aid 1856,	106 45
" Asa T. Edgerly, for guide-post,	42
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	\$1,964 21

## PAID FOR PHYSICIANS' BILLS.

Dr. Donnell, for poor in town,	50 00
" N. Wight, "	75 00
" Donnell, J. C. Young's family,	7 00
" Wight, poor in town,	16 18
" French, A. Adams,	5 50
" Wight, poor in town,	33 82
" Donnell, "	50 00
" Spencer,	45 00
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	\$282 50

## PAID FOR OLD ROADS AND BRIDGES.

R. D. Varney, for building bridge,	7 50
Alvah Foss, labor and timber for bridge,	37 68
N. Pickering, repairing bridge,	3 68
Dudley Young, work on highway,	3 40
Lougee & Hussey, bridge plank,	47 23
B. B. Cate, labor on highway,	32 56
R. Griffin, "	5 00
John L. Keazer, "	10 95
J. C. Philbrick, lumber for Burleigh bridge,	46 00
John L. Keazer, labor on " "	10 50
" " Musqueto "	40 00
B. J. Cole, lumber, &c., for " "	280 00
Charles Arlin, labor on road,	11 26
Stephen Shannon, " highway,	6 00
H. Chapman, " "	27 75
John L. Bean, bridge plank,	2 50
John M. Currier, "	5 00
R. H. Jones, "	3 50
J. S. Kimball, "	38 57
N. Pickering, bridge timber, &c.,	10 50
C. L. Moulton, stone for culvert,	4 60
James C. Cilley, for breaking roads,	4 00
Samuel P. Foss, for repairing gate,	3 00
Smith Place, for bridge plank,	1 75
John Ham, "	6 67
S. N. Edgerly, for plank,	80
David Lougee, for labor on road,	2 00
A. W. Smith, for labor on Iron Works bridge,	13 00
James Leighton, for work on highway,	2 00
J. K. Dudley, for timber for bridge,	1 25
James M. Pickering, for bridge timber,	1 25

G. B. Randlett, for bridge plank,	3 45
J. M. Roberts, for building culvert,	4 00
John Kimball, for bridge plank,	13 13
James C. Cilley, "	3 44
C. A. Hackett, for labor on highway,	9 75
Enoch Moulton, for stone for culvert,	4 80
J. S. Weymouth, for bridge plank,	4 77
A. D. Leighton, for labor on highway,	4 50
Jona Rundlett, for labor and culvert stone,	9 15
L. B. Fellows, for bridge plank,	1 62
S. C. Edwards, for labor on highway,	3 15
John E. Page, for bridge plank,	6 62
A. N. Mudgett, for bridge plank,	2 40
John F. Nelson, "	1 00
H. E. Marsh, for work on the highway,	10 00
Joshua Lane, for labor on bridge,	6 90
G. D. Ladd, for bridge plank,	2 88
Ira Mooney, for breaking new road,	3 50
James C. Burleigh, for culvert stone,	2 00
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	\$766 96

## PAID FOR NEW ROADS.

J. C. & J. P. Cilley, for land for road,	5 00
R. Whitcher, " "	62 00
J. M. Whitcher, " "	275 00
Geo. S. Tebbetts, " "	83 00
Hannah Curry, " "	75 00
John Merrill, " "	13 46
J. A. Merrill, " "	11 39
A. Foss, for building road,	40 49
H. E. Marsh, "	165 33
J. C. Cilley, "	165 34
A. W. Brown, "	65 33
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	\$961 34

## PAID POOR OFF OF THE TOWN FARM.

Joshua Lane for Betsey Conner,	53 00
J. L. Keazer for Samuel Stevens,	9 00
Parker & Co. for J. Clifford,	24 00
Abigail Twombly for J. Clifford's family,	10 00
John S. Tufts "	18 00
" "	5 35
John Hutchinson for digging grave for Mrs. Clifford,	2 75

J. M. Currier for John Weeks,	3 00
S. L. Greely        "	3 50
N. Pickering        "	2 75
John Wentworth for C. H. Lougee's family,	3 60
H. Chapman         "        "	6 00
S. G. Edgerly for N. Whittier's daughter,	5 00
John S. Hill for Mrs. Tasker,	4 00
Alvah Foss for Asa Lamprey's family,	6 50
Dudley Young for C. H. Young,	40 00
G. W. Morrison for J. Judkin's family,	11 00
Alvah Foss for N. B. Young's        "	50
" for coffin &c. for Hutchinson child,	3 15
Lewis Weed for Henry C. Smith's family,	5 50
J. L. Keazer for Dorcus Paul,	9 50
S. L. Greely for supplies for poor,	1 03
R. D. Tebbetts & Co.        " Smith Place,	12 64
A. Foss for money paid for county paupers,	20 75
H. Sibley & Co. for supplies for D. A. Paul,	127 75
"        " Catharine Paul,	22 00
Samuel Mugridge        "        Joseph Ladd,	17 13
Geo. W. Morrison        "        J. Judkins,	10 50
N. D. Garman         "        Amos Russell,	6 00
John L. Bean         "        S. Stevens,	3 25
W. H. Dalton         "        J. Judkins,	5 67
John S. Tufts for Charles H. Lougee,	5 20
"        Charles H. Young,	8 00
"        John Weeks,	2 06
"        Jeremiah Clifford,	20 67
"        John M. Clifford,	3 00
"        H. C. Smith,	12 58
"        John Shepard,	13 94
"        Mary A. Moulton,	3 55

\$521 76

PAID FOR POOR IN OTHER TOWNS CHARGEABLE  
TO THIS.

Wm. H. Kimball for Nancy C. Lougee,	15 00
O. Goss for Mrs. J. Moulton,	8 50
Town of Lincoln for J. Smith's family,	43 00
C. Parker & Co. for H. Emery's        "	28 00
J. C. Bean for F. W. Keniston's        "	37 35
J. L. Keazer for J. L. Edgerly's        "	2 00
J. C. Bean for David Fifield,	11 90
J. L. Keazer for J. L. Edgerly's family,	62 86

A. Foss for Mrs. P. Osgood,	5 00
John L. Keasor for Josiah Moulton,	10 44
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	\$224 05

### PAID FOR POOR ON TOWN FARM.

S. Shannon for money for use of farm,	12 00
N. Wight for medical aid,	17 25
Samuel Gilman for cow,	34 00
S. Shannon for money,	15 00
"      seeds, oats, &c.,	20 00
"      in part for services,	25 00
"                "	15 00
"                "	18 00
Amos R. Price for cow,	40 15
John S. Tufts for goods,	67 82
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	\$264 22

### PAID CURRENT EXPENSES.

Wm. Butterfield for printing town reports for 1857 and '8,	33 60
Morrill & Silsby for blank book, stationery, &c.,	19 00
D. C. Tebbets for labor and lumber for town hall,	1 94
J. W. Ham for school-house tax in dist. No. 2,	16 00
C. E. Plummer for money paid soldiers,	22 00
J. T. Gilman for military duty,	2 00
J. A. Downs                  "	2 00
A. Prescott for taking depositions, &c.,	8 05
E. Mallard for guide-boards,	16 23
A. Prescott for money hired,	49 44
B. Hill for serving pauper notice,	7 38
A. Prescott for selectmen's board in 1857,	65 66
J. M. Shepard for damage done to wagon,	2 00
J. C. Bean for guide-posts,	1 00
Enoch Brown & al for auditors services 1858,	6 00
J. S. Kimball for watering trough,	3 00
Estate of A. S. Eastman for stationery 1857,	1 38
B. W. Sanborn for serving pauper notice,	3 16
Paid interest on parsonage fund,	69 87
"      town orders,	10 23
Ira Mooney for sleigh,	3 00
Paid J. C. Bean for witness fees, &c. in M. A. Moul- ton case,	56 71
H. E. Marsh                  "	2 50

B. B. Lamprey, for witness fees, &c., in M. A. Moulton case,	12 00
J. C. Bean for suit vs. Meredith,	4 00
Geo. W. Ross for liquors delivered to D. Ayers,	64 55
J. P. Clough for abatements of taxes,	22 67
J. M. Shepard " "	29 37
A. Wentworth " " 1856,	1 99
N. E. Smith " " 1858,	2 22
J. S. Kimball " " 1858,	2 22
County tax 1858,	1,106 56
State tax in part,	471 48
K. S. Hall for teachers institute 1857,	49 74
" " " 1858,	33 16
A. Mack for int. on town order,	6 00
A. Mack for int. on two town orders,	8 31
" " " "	6 00
S. B. Plummer for int. on two town orders,	17 70
F. Ayers " "	6 60
B. B. Lamprey " "	11 28
H. E. Marsh, for int. on money for building Mooney road,	1 00
James C. Cilley for selectmen's expense,	3 25
Nathan Chase for guide-post,	1 00
Jesse S. Towle for guide-posts,	4 25
Wm. Badger for enrolling artillery co.,	4 00
Lowell Sanborn for guide-post,	1 00
Charles E. Plumer for school house tax dist. No. 20,	15 00
John W. Wells for school house tax in dist. No. 13,	75 00
Richard Plumer for school house tax in dist. No. 21,	165 00
John P. Clough for abatement of taxes 1858,	10 49
N. D. Garman for abatement of taxes 1857,	2 51
J. P. Clough for abatement of taxes 1857,	13 12
N. D. Garman for abatement of taxes 1857,	16 87
J. P. Clough for notifying jurors,	1 50
C. E. Plumer for notifying jurors,	2 50
N. D. Garman for notifying jurors,	1 00
Alfred Prescott for printing, notifying jurors and for blanks,	16 47
John S. Tufts for stationery,	91
Paid several school districts,	1,891 33
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	\$4,484 20

## PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

Amos Copp, for constable fees, 1858,	2 00
Geo. W. Currier, " 1857,	2 00

S. L. Currier, for constable fees,	2 00
J. S. Sanborn, " 1858,	2 00
A. W. Farrar, "	2 00
A. W. Smith, "	2 00
B. B. Lamprey, for services as Selectman,	3 00
Z. Peaslee, " "	4 60
R. B. Tebbetts, collecting taxes and notifying Jurors,	5 66
E. A. Rowe, services as Sup. School Committee, 1857,	41 00
S. A. Arnold, " " "	44 00
J. P. Clough, " " "	35 83
N. D. Garman, for collecting taxes, 1858,	43 81
C. E. Plumer " "	42 73
John P. Clough " "	43 16
John P. Clough, " 1857,	25 86
N. D. Garman, for constable fees,	2 00
Enos T. Gilman, " "	2 00
John P. Clough, " " and notifying Jurors,	3 50
Isaiah C. Akerley, " "	2 00
Alfred Prescott, for Treasurer,	50 00
John C. Bean, for services as Selectman out of town,	12 44
" " " " 1858,	67 00
Alva Foss, " " "	84 25
Alvah Foss, services, and expense as Selectman out of town,	24 55
John L. Keasor, services as Selectman, 1858,	78 17
" " services and expense out of town,	30 60
Alfred Prescott, for services as Town Clerk,	45 67
J. Q. Adams, for constable fees,	2 00
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	\$705 83

*Alfred Prescott, Treasurer in account with the Town of Gilmanton.*

Dr.

To balance on settlement, Feb. 27, 1858,	1895 18
" cash of N. B. Young,	2 60
" " hired of G. H. Potter,	100 00
" " " J. O. Sleeper,	80 00
" " " A. Prescott,	48 00
" " " D. Hatch,	300 00
" " " L. J. Mathews,	600 00
" " " J. S. Kelley,	200 00
" " " L. L. Clark,	80 00
" " Thos. Cogswell,	650 00

To cash of State for R. R. Tax, 1857,	89 83
"    "    "    " Literary money,	257 60
"    "    of County of Belknap for paupers,	45 37
"    "    of A. Foss, for S. H. Willey,	33 00
"    "    of County of Belknap for paupers,	20 75
" amount of taxes assessed in 1858,	7,324 14
"    "    School taxes assessed in Dis. No. 2,	17 16
"    "    "    "    "    "    No. 20,	15 46
"    "    "    "    "    "    No. 13,	78 62
"    "    "    "    "    "    No. 21,	172 06
" Interest rec'd of R. B. Tebbetts on tax money,	63 65
" Non-resident tax assessed,	177 64
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	\$12,251 06

## Cr.

By paid outstanding orders,	1964 21
" for Physician's bill,	282 50
" for old roads and bridges,	766 96
" for new roads,	961 34
" for poor off of the town farm,	521 76
"    " in other towns chargeable to this,	224 05
"    " on town farm,	264 22
" for current expenses,	4,484 20
" for town officers,	705 83
Balance in collector's notes and back taxes not col- lected,	2075 99
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	\$12,251 06

This balance is embraced in the following items, viz :

Notes of collectors for back taxes, prior to and in 1855,	13 85
Due from J. D. Gilman, collector in 1855,	19 81
" E. Keazer, " 1856,	71 13
" J. P. Clough, " 1857,	25 00
" J. S. Sanborn, " 1857,	162 59
" N. D. Garman, " 1857,	39 00
" J. P. Clough, " 1858,	327 92
" C. E. Plummer, " 1858,	386 49
" N. D. Garman, " 1858,	799 35
Cash on hand,	230 85
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\$2075 99

ALFRED PRESCOTT, *Treasurer.*

ALVAH FOSS,  
JOHN C. BEAN,  
JOHN L. KEASOR, } *Selectmen  
of  
Gilmanton.*

Feb. 26, 1859. The undersigned have carefully examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and properly vouched, and a balance due the town of the sum of two thousand seventy-five dollars and ninety-nine cents.

JOHN Q. ADAMS,  
NATHANIEL B. ROWE, }  
IRA SHANNON, } *Auditors.*

### FUNDS OF THE TOWN.

Literary fund,	257 60
Parsonage fund,	1807 25
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	<b>\$2064 85</b>

We find the town indebted to the funds as follows, viz:—	
Literary fund,	257 60
Parsonage fund	1164 46
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	<b>\$1422 06</b>

All of which is respectfully submitted :

JOHN Q. ADAMS,  
NATHANIEL B. ROWE, }  
IRA SHANNON, } *Auditors.*

Gilmanton, Feb. 28, 1859.

### INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN, FEB. 28, 1859.

We find the town indebted for outstanding orders as follows, viz:

M. Shepard for building road,	55 88
C. Gilman for board of Selectmen in 1855,	88 55
A. Prescott        "        " 1856,	63 61
A. Page,	750 13
Samuel Hadley for money hired,	200 00
A. S. Tilton,        "	200 00
B. B. Lamprey,        "	100 00
L. G. Lougee,        "	212 00
T. S. Dudley,        "	411 91
A. S. Tilton,        "	150 00
Nancy Norris,        "	62 92
Ira Shannon,        "	993 95
J. P. Hill,        "	400 00
S. Hadley,        "	221 13

Francis Ayers, for money hired,	110 03
Gilmanton Academy, for money hired,	100 00
A. Prescott for services as Treasurer,	50 00
J. B. Sanborn for land for road,	50 00
D. W. Weeks for his expenses,	15 53
D. W. Weeks for money for D. Paul,	13 00
"        "    for A. E. Edgerly,	36 77
"        "    for J. H. Smith,	148 59
"        "    for Mrs. Keniston,	10 00
B. B. Lamprey for services as Selectman, 1856,	88 00
S. N. Bell for James Bell's services on Durrell road,	40 00
Stephen Shannon for services on town farm,	200 00
"        "        "    1856,	106 81
George H. Potter for money hired,	100 00
John O. Sleeper       "	80 00
David Hatch       "	300 00
Lydia J. Matthews       "	600 00
Lydia L. Clark for land damage,	75 00
Joseph S. Kelley for money hired,	200 00
Lydia L. Clark       "	80 00
Thomas Cogswell       "	650 00
Arthur W. Brown for building new road,	100 00
Alvah Foss, trustee for money hired,	33 00
Jeduthan Farrar for bridge plank,	2 24
Levi H. Mudgett for enrolling militia, 1857,	5 00
Reuben Rundlett for watering trough,	3 00
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	\$7,107 05
After deducting balance in the Treasury, 2075 99	
Am't in hands of Agents for sale of liquor, 198 15	
" due from Meredith for support of	
D. A. Paul,	424 10
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	2,698 24
Leaving the town indebted over means,	
Feb. 26, 1859,	\$4,408 81

## REPORT ON TOWN FARM.

The undersigned, Selectmen of Gilmanton, report that the town has paid out of the Treasury for the use of the town farm during the year commencing March 1, 1858, the following sums, viz :

For cow,	34 00
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S. Shannon, oats, seeds, &c.	20 00
Amos R. Price for cow,	40 15
John S. Tufts for goods,	67 82
S. Shannon money for the use of farm,	12 00
"        "        "	15 00
For interest on cost of town farm,	180 00
" services of overseer,	240 00
 Making the whole paid out,	\$608 97
	20

*Schedule of property on Town Farm, as appraised by the  
Selectmen, Feb. 23, 1859.*

12 tons English Hay,	132 00
4 tons low ground hay,	32 00
1 horse,	75 00
2 oxen,	125 00
4 steers,	98 00
5 cows,	158 00
1 heifer,	20 00
2 steers,	20 00
3 shoats,	40 00
25 bushels corn,	25 00
5 " wheat,	10 00
9 " oats,	4 50
4 " beans	8 00
3 " peas,	6 00
80 lbs. tallow, 12 1-2 per lb.	10 00
35 " lard 14c "	4 90
18 " dried apple,	1 44
400 " pork,	50 00
500 " beef,	40 50
40 " butter,	8 00
10 " candles,	1 50
130 bushels potatoes,	39 00
1 1-2 bushels beets,	50
4 bushels turnips,	1 00
1 barrel vinegar,	8 50
1 barrel soap,	3 00
1 barrel cider,	1 50

Whole amounting to \$998 34

All of which is respectfully submitted:

ALVAH FOSS,  
JOHN C. BEAN,  
JOHN L. KEASOR, } Selectmen  
of  
Gilmanton.

LIST OF NAMES AND AGES OF PAUPERS ON FARM  
FEBRUARY 23, 1859.

Dudley J. Weeks,	71	Louis Thompson,	79
Thomas Elkins,	73	Eliza Thompson,	49
Charles Bean,	64	Mehitable Elkins,	68
Alvah F. Willey,	8	Sally Pervier,	59
Charles H. Lougee,	29	Polly Morrill,	71
George H. Lougee,	9	Mahala Moulton,	45
Edwin Lougee,	6	Mercy Elkins,	46
John C. Lougee,	3	Cynthia B. Pulsifer,	3
Hermon Lougee,		Alvia F. Lougee,	31
Francis Keniston,	55	Clara A. Lougee,	8
George F. Keniston,	4	Mary Keniston,	33
David Fifield,	71	Martha Davis,	7
Silas Willey,	16	Mary F. Kenniston,	1
		Lydia Avery,	75

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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## LOWER COLLECTION DISTRICT.

### DISTRICT No. 1.

*First Term*, 9 weeks, taught by Miss Eliza O. French. Whole number of scholars, 32. Average attendance, 25. This district has an excellent school-house. Not much play ground. The third and fourth reader classes learned very well. The first and second reader classes learned unusually well considering the length of the term. The classes in Arithmetic learned quite well for young scholars. The class in Grammar advanced quite rapidly. The school was very still considering the number of scholars. The district was very lucky to get so good a teacher.

*Second Term*, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. Alvah H. Batchelder. Whole number of scholars, 36. Average attendance, 29. The classes in reading read very well, with a few exceptions. The first class in Adams' Arithmetic is very backward considering the amount of schooling they have. It is desirable to have less superficial scholars and more practical ones. It seems to be the desire of some scholars and teachers to run over their exercise in too hasty a manner. It should be the aim of teachers to have their pupils understand every principle gone over, have them learn one thing at a time, and to apply it. Grammar classes are quite backward. Geography classes very well posted. School-house very good. Order not as good as desirable. School visited but once, was not notified of its close.

### DISTRICT No. 2.

*First Term*, 7 weeks, taught by Miss Emily M. Parsons. Whole number of scholars, 31. Average attendance, 27. The school-house not very good. The play ground is very limited unless they take to the road. The class in fifth reader read very well. The class in fourth reader did not read as well as desirable. The class in second reader read tolerably well. The class in mental Arithmetic acquitted themselves quite well. In Adams' Arithmetic were very prompt. In Geography quite well. The school was visited but once. I was not notified of its close. Therefore cannot tell the advancement of the school. The school appeared very well. Order good.

*Second Term*, 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks, taught by Mr. Frank S. French. Whole number of scholars, 32. Average attendance, according to the register, 32. The fourth class read very well paying particular attention to the pauses and inflections.—In the third reader, they learned quite fast. The second did not learn as fast as desirable. The first class in Arithmetic appeared very well; they did all examples given, very readily. The second class in Arithmetic were quite thorough as far as they went. The improvement in Colburn's Arithmetic was limited. The class in Grammar made some improvement; there was one or two very good scholars in the class. Order very good.

### DISTRICT No. 3.

*First Term*, 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks, taught by Miss Amy L. Edgerly. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 15. The classes in fourth and fifth reader, learned extraordinary well considering the length of the school. The second reader class excelled any class that I saw in the Summer terms. At the commencement of school some of the class hardly knew all of their letters; at the close, they could read quite smart. In Adams' Arithmetic they acquitted themselves very well considering their ages. Class in Grammar learned quite well. I consider it a very good school. I think it would be well to patronize such

teachers. The district has a good school-house. Order good. I did not see a scholar whisper at the last visit.

*Second Term*, 9 weeks, taught by Mr. David S. Dockham. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 23. I take great pleasure in referring to the condition of this school. The classes in reading are very good readers, especially the fifth reader class. The classes in Arithmetic were very well posted; one class went through Greenleaf's in a very thorough manner. In mental Arithmetic they did very well. I should be glad to see more large scholars in Colburn's Arithmetic. Grammar class is good. The teacher has, by a firm, yet considerate course, above all by great fidelity, secured the respect and regard of both parents and scholars, so that the school was under good government, and has made progress during the term equal to that of any school in this part of the town.

#### DISTRICT No. 5.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Mary E. Peaslee. Whole number of scholars, 22. Average attendance, 19. The reading classes are quite good readers. I noticed one fault in particular, that of reading too low. The Geography classes learned very well and are quite good in it. The class in Grammar acquitted themselves quite well. The school was in a flourishing and improved condition. The teacher was exemplary for her fidelity to duty, her earnestness in her vocation, and aptness to teach.

*Second Term*, 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks, taught by Mr. Harlan W. Page. Whole number of scholars, 33. Average attendance, 26  $\frac{1}{2}$ . This school has made good progress. The number of pupils is not large, but they seemed generally interested in their studies. The teacher in the school has been faithful in the performance of his duty. I observed in my visits that the teacher, while firm, was also affectionate in his government. Teachers only who love their work, and love children, and are kindly and heartily interested in their pupils, can ever succeed.—Mildness and firmness, are qualities which are perfectly compatible and are united in every good teacher. Order very good. The house not so good as desirable.

#### DISTRICT No. 6.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Addie C. Smith. Whole number of scholars, 15. Average attendance, 11. The school in this district was admirable. Miss Smith was in an eminent degree "apt to teach;" could impart what she knew to her pupils, and infuse energy into the whole school. The progress made was consequently great, and the school appeared very favorably at the close of the term.

*Second Term*, 6 weeks, taught by Mr. James W. Cogswell. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 19. I can speak with much satisfaction of this school. The school has made good progress. The parents have cordially sustained the teacher, and by judicious and friendly co-operation with him, have secured a most excellent school. We hardly need to say under these circumstances, that the school has been under admirable discipline. There were ten scholars, who did not whisper during the term according to the register. It would be well to have their influence extend through all of the schools. Great improvements ought to be made in the school-house. I hope the good work begun in this department will go on until our school-houses throughout the town are an honor and not a reproach to any portion of our community.

#### DISTRICT No. 7.

*One Term*, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Laura J. Lougee. Whole number of scholars, 5. Average attendance, 3. The classes in reading are quite good readers. In Arithmetic they are but little advanced. The school would be more interesting if they had more scholars. The teacher seems, to me working with much perseverance and fidelity. Order very good.

#### DISTRICT No. 27.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, taught by C. Jennie Edgerly. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 19. The school appeared very well and made

good improvement. The reading classes are very good readers for young scholars. In Arithmetic they appeared to understand all the principles as far as they had gone. Order quite good.

*Second Term*, 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks, taught by Mr. Lyman O. Dow. Whole number of scholars, 18. Average attendance, 13. Visited this school the first of the term. The school appeared quite well. The teacher appeared to labor hard for the advancement of the school. I was not notified of its close, cannot report further.

#### DISTRICT No. 28.

*First Term*, 16 weeks, taught by Miss Laura J. Lougee. Whole number of scholars, 51. Average attendance 40. The reading classes learned quite well, especially the lower classes. The first class in Grammar did quite well. Some are very good scholars. The second class acquitted themselves very well. In Tower's Elementary they made very good progress. In Geography they were well posted. In Arithmetic they made good improvement and seemed to try hard to understand all the principles. Miss Lougee is full of zeal and interest in her work and seems to have been successful in it.

*Second Term*, 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks, taught by Mr. Ira L. Berry. Whole number of scholars, 62. Average attendance, 42. The scholars made fair progress during the term. In reading they excel any school in this part of the town. The scholars' motto has been "progress," and they have steadily advanced under their teacher. In conclusion. Few things can be more desirable or essential than a uniformity of class books in a school. The science of education is constantly advancing, and has made rapid progress in the method of teaching the young during the last few years, and the books used in schools have undergone corresponding improvements in their arrangement and system. To say that it makes little or no difference what books are used, is certainly not conformable to men's experience in any other department of life. The farmer and the carpenter would be great losers in the amount of work accomplished, if they used any other than the best tools—and so every scholar works at immense disadvantage with any but the best books, compiled according to the most improved system. I cannot but recommend to parents the duty of sustaining the teacher, unless in some extreme case; and of judging a teacher, not by the reports of their children, but by actual visiting of the schools in person. Let all our teachers, especially the young, who need such sympathy, find friendly co-operation and reasonable forbearance, with occasionally kind advice and suggestions from the parents in the various districts, and I apprehend that there will seldom be any difficulties in our schools.

### MIDDLE COLLECTION DISTRICT.

#### DISTRICT No. 4. (Reported by S. A. Arnold.)

*First Term*, 7 weeks, Miss Arianna Canney, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average attendance, 15. Visited this school near the commencement, but owing to a mistake in relation to the time of closing did not visit it but once. Most of the scholars attending school this term were very backward. In districts like this, where they have but little schooling, parents should instruct their children *at home*, and encourage them to spend a part of their time, at least, in reading and study. As far as we have learned, Miss Canney discharged all her duties to the entire satisfaction of the district.

*Second Term*, weeks, Harlan Gilman, teacher. Whole number of scholars, . Average attendance, . For several years past, notwithstanding the small amount of money appropriated for schooling, this district has usually been fortunate in its selection of teachers. The teacher this term had no previous experience in teaching, but he entered upon his duties with a determination to surmount every obstacle, and the success which attended his efforts has placed him in the front rank among our best teachers. The first classes in Colburn's and Adams' Arithmetic, and the classes in Algebra and parsing were prompt and thorough. A portion of the scholars are yet very backward. Considerable attention was paid to reading and spelling. Order excellent.

#### DISTRICT No. 8.

*One Term*, winter, 10 weeks, James B. Lovering, Loudon, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 16. Average attendance, 12. The teacher in his report truly says, "The school-house in this district is the most disgraceful structure

I ever saw; not only out of repair, but most obscurely disfigured, ill-constructed and uncomfortable." Not a single parent living in the district visited the school during the term. As might naturally be expected, the scholars generally are in a very backward state. The classes in reading made good improvement.—There are a few good scholars here; one in particular might be named who was a very thorough, excellent scholar. Mr. Lovering labored indefatigably to create and sustain an interest in the school, and gave the district a week's service gratis.

#### DISTRICT No. 9.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss Betsey W. Moody, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 53. Average attendance, 36. When visited the first time the school appeared to be prospering finely. The teacher says, "about the middle of the third week, the whooping cough and mumps began their work, and those that had never had them became their subjects." Many of the scholars were unable to attend school but a small portion of the time. A few scholars that attended regularly made good progress. The teacher labored hard, early and late, for the welfare of the school. She gained the affections of her pupils, and gave general satisfaction to the district. Miss Moody has usually been very successful in maintaining good order in schools where she has taught. Had whispering been banished entirely from the school-room this term, it would not only have improved the appearance of the school, but it would have resulted in the greater improvement of the scholars.

*Second Term*, 11 weeks, Miss Amy L. Edgerly. Whole number of scholars, 50. Average attendance, 25. From the appearance of the school at my first visit, I anticipated a profitable term, and I was not aware that there was any serious difficulty in the school, or dissatisfaction in the district, till near the close of the term. Miss Edgerly's former reputation, together with her more recent success in teaching, fully shows that this difficulty could not have resulted from incompetency on the part of the teacher. This term commenced under unfavorable circumstances. It has been customary here, to employ but one teacher for both summer terms, and a large portion of the district were displeased because Miss Moody was not permitted to teach the second term. It was currently reported, (whether truly or falsely I do not pretend to say,) that the teacher was informed by the prudential committee that many of the scholars were very vicious, and full of evil, and that she *must whip it out of them*. With these impressions, no doubt many of the scholars conceived a dislike to the teacher from the commencement of the school. After all, this prejudice forms no excuse for such abusive, disgraceful conduct by scholars towards their teacher. Any person having a spark of decency about them, would consider it a lasting disgrace to be engaged *directly* or *indirectly* in such infamous business. Had Miss Edgerly commenced this school under favorable influences, with the co-operation of parents, without *instruction* or *dictation*, no doubt she would have been eminently successful.

(Visited and reported by E. A. Rowe.)

*Second Term*, 10 weeks, Mr. S. A. Arnold, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 48. Average attendance, 35. We can consistently say that the interest manifested was good, the scholars seeming to appreciate highly the instructions of so worthy a teacher, as Mr. Arnold has ever proved himself to be. Reading classes appeared as well as any we have found in town, especially the fourth class which included a large portion of the school. Grammar and Mathematical classes made thorough improvement, evincing industry and perseverance by the scholars, faithfulness and energy on the part of the teacher. With so large a number of scholars, and so little time to devote to each, the duties of a teacher are arduous, with all the conveniences that a district can place at his disposal, but when a teacher labors with such inconveniences as an open and cold school-room, stove and stove-pipe in a shattered condition and nothing but *green wood* to kindle his fire with, the undertaking must appear almost insurmountable to any teacher, and we can only say that Mr. Arnold must have exercised an unusual amount of patience and forbearance in continuing his school under such circumstances. The outward appearance of the school-house is good enough, but the inner portion is sadly out of repair, which affords ample temptation for the exercise of that ingenuity so common to school boys.

#### DISTRICT No. 10.

*One Term*, winter, 11 weeks, Miss L. Amanda Moody, teacher. Whole num-

ber of scholars, 10. Average attendance, 7. Only five of the scholars that attended this school had parents residing in this district. Two large boys temporarily living in this district, made an effort to break up the school by a continued series of the most disgraceful acts. They were finally removed from the school. These same boys, by their influence and refractory conduct, broke up the school the winter term last year. If such boys *must* be sent to school, it would be better for the district to employ a teacher with physical strength sufficient to give them their *just deserts*. This was Miss Moody's first effort in teaching, but she manifested an ardent desire for the improvement of her pupils, and labored faithfully to accomplish it. Two or three scholars were evidently "too old" to learn much; but the remaining portion of the school made thorough progress. If this district is unable to build a new house, they ought, at least, to repair the old one, and supply the school with a plenty of *good, dry wood, well housed*.

#### DISTRICT No. 11.

*First Term*, 9 weeks, Mrs. M. Lizzie Gale, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 18. This was the third consecutive term taught by Mrs. Gale, in this district, and it is but justice to say that she fully sustained her former reputation of being one of our most *thorough* and *efficient* teachers.—Order excellent. One most pleasing feature of the school was the *thoroughness* manifested in every branch of study pursued, especially in Arithmetic. In this, as well as in most of our schools, many of the scholars have a very imperfect knowledge of those fundamental branches of a good education, *reading* and *spelling*. Hope to hear soon that this district has done something more than *to talk about building a new school-house*.

*Second Term*, 7 weeks, Miss Laura A. Gale, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 19. Miss Gale, without the experience in teaching of her predecessor, manifested a laudable ambition to be second to none in promptness, energy and faithfulness. The examination at the close of the term was very satisfactory. Class in Colburn's Arithmetic exhibited their *thoroughness* by solving the most difficult examples *without looking on the book*.—Class in Adams' Arithmetic repeated every rule, and gave a complete synopsis of every principle laid down as far as percentage, *without the aid of questions*.—Other classes made good proficiency. Order good. Twelve scholars did not whisper during the term.

#### DISTRICT No. 12.

*First Term*, 12 weeks, Miss Eliza J. Durrell, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 23. Average attendance, 18. If parents really desire the best interests of their children, why do they not visit the school and learn by actual observation their condition and progress? The backwardness of many of the scholars here is attributable in a great measure, no doubt, to this lack of interest on the part of parents. When I say that the classes generally acquitted themselves well, and made good progress, I do not mean that they might not have done *much better* had parents co-operated with the teacher and scholars for the advancement of the school. Teacher prompt, energetic and efficient. Discipline thorough.

*Second Term*, 11 weeks, Miss Amy L. Edgerly, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 26. Average attendance, 23. Fourteen scholars over 15 years of age attended school here this term. It might naturally be inferred from the age of the scholars, and also from the considerable amount of money expended here yearly, that the scholars would rank higher in intellectual attainments than in less favored localities; but a large portion of the scholars do not seem to appreciate their advantages as they ought. It is a lamentable fact that so many of our youth do not *realize the necessity* of diligently improving their time while attending school, until it is too late to receive any benefit therefrom. It affords us pleasure to be able to say that most of the scholars this term appeared to be interested in their studies. The classes in reading, Arithmetic and Grammar, made good improvement, although some in these classes are yet very backward. *Spelling* has been *too much neglected* here for years past. Class in Colburn's Arithmetic were able to solve and explain the most difficult examples in any part of the book. The teacher, by faithfulness and devotion to the interests of her pupils, won, and retained their confidence and affection during the whole term. The good order, thorough discipline, and progress of the school fully established the teacher's reputation as one of our most successful teachers.

## DISTRICT No. 16.

*First Term*, 10 weeks, Miss Mary P. Price, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 17. Notwithstanding the wretched condition of the school-house, and the general apathy among parents in relation to common school education, there are a very few excellent scholars here. The fourth reader class, and the first classes in Arithmetic and Grammar, did themselves much credit. The scholars generally appeared much more interested than their parents, which after all is not saying much. Miss Price labored under the disadvantages of teaching in her own district, but she performed her duties in a manner highly creditable to herself, and satisfactory to the district.

*Second Term*, 12 weeks, Reuben W. Price, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 24. Average attendance, 19. The law makes it the duty of the prudential committee to inform the superintending school committee of the time when each term of school commences and closes. The committee received no notice of the termination of this school, consequently did not visit it but once. Judging from the appearance of the school when visited the first week, we anticipated a very successful term. The teacher, in his report, says that he commenced this school "under much disadvantage arising from disagreement and division among parents,"—"causing the detention of some scholars at the commencement, and a want of interest and zeal in others." The uncomfortable condition of the school-house, and the irregular attendance of a large portion of the scholars, were serious obstacles to the improvement of the school. The teacher says, "in Grammar and Arithmetic, good improvement was made." "*Reading* and *spelling* were made the more important branches of study, and in these, some of the scholars made *rapid progress*." We are pleased to learn that this district has "decided to build a new house the present year. No reasonable expense should be spared to have it *thoroughly constructed, well-ventilated, convenient and beautiful*."

## DISTRICT NO. 20.

*First Term*, 6 weeks, Miss Lucy J. Dearborn, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 10. Average attendance, 9. The teacher was quite young and wholly inexperienced in teaching, but with an energy and faithfulness in the discharge of her duties highly creditable, she succeeded in gaining the approbation of all who were interested in the prosperity of the school. No teacher can make a great show of improvement in a term of six weeks, but the appearance of the school at its close indicated thoroughness of instruction, good order, and fair progress.

*Second Term*, 10 weeks, Miss Juliett E. Robinson, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 18. Average attendance, 15. About a dozen large scholars from 12 to 18 years of age, attended school this term. This district has but a small amount of money each year to expend in schooling, consequently most of the scholars are not as far advanced as in some more favored districts. The scholars here have generally had the name of being orderly and well disposed, but I regret that *some* of the larger scholars this term seemed disposed to disregard those regulations which are absolutely necessary for the proper discipline and advancement of the school. Perhaps it might prove advantageous to the school were a male teacher employed to teach the winter term, *provided* one could be obtained of the *right stamp*. The reading classes made good proficiency. A few in Arithmetic and Grammar made fair progress. With proper discipline and effort on the part of the scholars much greater advancement might have been made. Miss Robinson has taught several terms in this district, as well as elsewhere, and has the reputation of being a successful teacher.

## DISTRICT NO. 24.

*One Term*, Winter, 11 weeks. Miss Betsey W. Moody, teacher. Whole number of scholars 20, average attendance 18. The small amount of schooling here readily accounts for the backwardness of many of the scholars. "Yet," says the teacher, "they seem to prize their school higher than in most districts, showing this by their diligence and punctuality." Class in Colburn's Arithmetic went through the book in a *very thorough* manner. Class in Adams' Arithmetic made *thorough* progress. The classes in reading improved rapidly, especially the 2d Reader class. The kindness, energy and judicious management of the teacher gained for her the confidence and love of her pupils and the approval of all who were interested in the welfare of the school. Order good.

## DISTRICT No. 26.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss Drusilla L. Bachelder, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 17. Owing to pressing engagements was not able to visit this school at the commencement, but visited it at the close. When visited by the Committee, the appearance of the school indicated that good order had been well sustained. The classes generally acquitted themselves well. In reading and spelling, especially, good improvement was made. The teacher communicated a considerable amount of useful instruction, orally.

*Second Term*, 9 weeks, Miss Susan A. Smith, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 31. Average attendance, 24. With but little experience Miss Smith undertook the difficult task of teaching school in her own district. By untiring industry, and fidelity in the performance of her duties, she succeeded in awaking a deep interest in all the exercises of the school. Considerable attention was paid to reading, with good success. A little more time might profitably have been spent in the study of the Spelling-book. Classes in Greenleaf's Arithmetic and parsing very thorough. Classes in Colburn's Arithmetic would compare favorably with any in town. Discipline thorough. The teacher gained the hearty approval of parents and scholars.

## UPPER COLLECTION DISTRICT.

## DISTRICT NO. 13.

*First Term*, 9 weeks, Miss M. Lizzie Bachelder, Loudon, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 18. The quiet and affable manner in which this teacher governed her school, caused her at once to be respected and obeyed by her pupils. Possessing an ardent love for the employment, and a high sense of its responsibilities, Miss B. acquitted herself in a happy manner, although without experience in this most laudable profession of a public teacher. The scholars, at the examination, evidently partook much of the example of their teacher, in being prompt, punctual and unembarrassed. Instructions of a thorough character. Progress every way commendable. Order good.

*Second Term*, 6 weeks, Mr. Abram Brown, Canterbury, teacher. Whole number of scholars, —. Average attendance, —. This term of school may be justly called successful. Teacher faithful to his duties. Instructions imparted in a workmanlike manner. Order good. Progress satisfactory. We are led to enquire why it is that this school is so well favored from year to year, and we readily find the response in the judicious care exercised in the selection of teachers, a fact worthy of general imitation.

## DISTRICT NO. 14.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss E. A. Moody, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 4. Average attendance, 4. School appeared well. Improvement quite satisfactory to your committee, and should be to the parents who are interested in the school.

*Second Term*, 6½ weeks, Mr. Charles E. Moody, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 8. Average attendance, 7. This is a small but interesting school. The progress made here this term was excellent, reflecting that credit upon the teacher, which is due those who are active and faithful. Deportment of a good order.

## DISTRICT NO. 15.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss Juliett E. Robinson, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 24. This school appeared favorably. Progress fair, but had it been more forcibly impressed with thoroughness, the scholars would have done themselves more honor and reflected more credit upon the teacher. Deportment of the school should have been more disciplinary. Whispering in this school prevails to an injurious extent. Let the parents and teacher cooperate and banish this bane from the school room. It can be easily accomplished.

*Second Term*, 7 weeks. Mr. Samuel F. Lougee, Gilford, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 39. Average attendance, 36. Upon our first visit to this school, the teacher and scholars seemed well engaged. The only imperfection we observed was the habit of whispering. A correction of this habit was then earnestly recommended to the school. When we made our second visit we were somewhat disappointed. There was fine improvement made by a few—

very little by others. The former were those, no doubt, who felt interested and were desirous to perform punctually all their duties; it is needless to speak of the latter. We found the deportment no better and even worse than at our previous visit, whispering prevailing to a greater extent. Shall we impute all the blame to the teacher? He was fully competent, and possessed a good faculty to impart instruction in all the necessary branches of the school; but when avenues of discord are wide open in a neighborhood daily deepening and widening, a teacher should not, by word or gesture, get drawn into them, if he does, the profitableness of a school will be deteriorated. Under other circumstances Mr. Lougee would be a highly successful teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 17.

*First Term*, 9 weeks, Miss Carrie Small, Canterbury, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 17. We observed in this school good deportment and interest among the scholars. Progress fair, with a good degree of thoroughness. Everything *appeared* prosperous.

*Second Term*, 11 weeks, commenced by the same teacher. Whole number of scholars, 23. Dissatisfaction became so universal soon after the commencement, that her withdrawal was considered necessary for the best interest of the school. Some teachers fail to govern themselves, and perhaps resort to injudicious methods of coercion, when at once parents and scholars lose all confidence in them. It is often said that scholars should be made to *fear* their teacher. We believe in no such thing. Teachers should so govern themselves as to gain the love and respect of their pupils, then, with few exceptions, they will yield implicit obedience to all requisitions, and fear to do wrong.

The remaining 9 weeks was taught by Miss Hannah D. Morrill. Commencing the school under the circumstances which she did, all was accomplished that might be expected. With a teacher of such qualifications under ordinary circumstances excellent progress would have been made; but as it was fair progress was made. Order of the school ought to have been better; but when we consider the influence exerted over it, the discipline was even more than we expected. Fearing there may be erroneous opinions in regard to corporeal punishment, we would simply remark that there is no law upon the subject. In all cases teachers have discretionary power, and are only liable when they abuse it.

#### DISTRICT NO. 18.

*Two Terms*, 8 and 10 weeks, Miss Narcissa S. Kimball, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 15. Average attendance, 13. First term school small and scholars well engaged. Progress commendable, with a laudable degree of thoroughness. Second term, the progress fair, but had there been the same discipline the prosperity would have been more discernable. When we see scholars at play in the fields and pastures in school hours, as was the case when we made our last visit, we most naturally conclude something wrong. We have repeatedly presented the condition of your school house for consideration, without being gladdened by the erection of a neat and tidy building, one that deserves the name of a school house.

#### DISTRICT NO. 19.

*Two Terms*, 8 weeks each, Miss Amanda A. Hadley, Laconia, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 17. Teacher naturally adapted to her work. Classes in mathematics made fine improvement, and upon their examination proved themselves equal with any we have found, and reflected laudably upon the method of instruction pursued by the teacher. In other branches not so great progress was made, yet very thorough. In some cases a teacher may have a greater love for mathematics than for other branches, consequently a school will make better proficiency in this branch under the care of such a teacher. We presume it was the case here. Order of the school highly commendable.

#### DISTRICT NO. 21.

*First Term*, 6 weeks, Miss Alice E. Rundlett, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 9. Average attendance, 7. We did not find so much to admire in this school as we could wish, although due allowance should be made for the inexperience of the teacher. Progress ordinary. Order very good.

*Second Term*, 7 weeks, Mr. Daniel H. Rowe, Gilford, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 14. Average attendance, 13. Every thing connected with the school seemed harmonious, although the teacher commenced without any experience.

Good order maintained in a quiet and happy manner. Instructions imparted in all branches in a method which speaks well for the future success of the teacher. Improvement as a whole satisfactory. It is somewhat gratifying to witness a step of improvement by the district in repairing their school house. They have now a very comfortable school room, convenient nearly in every respect, although accomplished amid great tribulation. We hope other districts will soon follow their example.

#### DISTRICT No. 22.

*First Term*, 10 weeks, Miss Jennie H. Brown, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average attendance, 14. This teacher did perhaps all she could for the benefit of her school, being young and without experience. Probably if there had been more thoroughness, the scholars and teacher would be entitled to more credit. Every teacher should be thorough enough to avoid all confusion of Mathematical principles with those of Grammar. Department of the school appeared very well.

*Second Term*, 9 weeks, Mr. John L. Perley, jr., of Laconia, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 16. We found here an active and energetic teacher. Progress of the school fair with a medium amount of thoroughness. It would be doing Mr. Perley injustice to impute any deficiency in the progress to him. There was a decided inactivity on the part of the scholars, with a few exceptions, or a repugnance to a close application, which greatly retarded the advancement of the school. A teacher without experience in such a school cannot effect as much as one of more practice. Order good.

#### DISTRICT No. 23.

*One Term*, 12 weeks, Miss Narcissa S. Kimball, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 14. This school, though small, contains intellectual material sufficient to interest a good teacher. The improvement was such as to give the scholars a *general* idea of all branches. There was not that thoroughness which indelibly marks the best instructions, consequently there seemed too much of the superficial. Proper order and decorum are the great essentials of the school room, and when neglected, a school ceases to be of great profit.

#### DISTRICT NO. 25.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss Carrie M. Clay, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 18. Average attendance, 16. Good progress by all the scholars. Order highly satisfactory and secured in a pleasant manner. We feel confident in saying that the school was one of profit. In her report she speaks favorably of the interest of the school.

*Second Term*, 7 weeks, Miss S. F. Fellows, Brentwood, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 16. Upon our visits to the school there seemed a good interest among the scholars, and a disposition to perform all their duties. The improvement good and quite thorough; considering that this was her first experience, the result of her effort is deemed efficient and successful. Order good.

#### DISTRICT NO. 29.

*First Term*, 8 weeks, Miss Maria G. Pickering, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average attendance, 14. Improvement was all that could be expected of a school under the instructions of a well qualified teacher. Department of the scholars very good, maintained possibly in some cases by coercion when other means failed to produce correct discipline.

*Second Term*, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  weeks, Miss Almeda M. Forrest, Northfield, teacher.—Whole number of scholars, 27. Average attendance, 20. This teacher manifested a strong desire to promote the welfare of her school in every possible manner. Elementary thoroughness seemed to be the prominent feature in all her instructions. At the examination of the school we were impressed that those scholars who gave good attention and were desirous to learn, made good improvement, while others, we reluctantly mention, did not seem to appreciate their advantages as faithful scholars. Order of the school might have been better, yet due allowance should be made for the inexperience of the teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 30.

*First Term*, 10 weeks, Miss Annie R. Shaw, teacher. Whole number of schol-

ars, 41. Average attendance, 36. The duties of this school were arduous and often perplexing. The teacher was untiring in her efforts to promote the best interest of the school. Her method of instruction thorough and systematic, consequently the improvement in all branches was of a good order. The imperfect manner in which she presented her Register, does not enable us to speak fully of the interest manifested by the district and scholars, but from appearances a due degree was felt by the school. Department of the school was as good as could be attained by most female teachers with the care of so large a number.

*Second Term*, 10 weeks, Mr. S. Lowell French, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 47. Average attendance, 41. This school has been highly favored for a number of years with first class teachers, and we are gratified to say that it has enjoyed the same the present winter. The progress of the school of the first order. Every thing connected with the exercises was thorough and systematic. Department of the school admirable. The teacher remarks in his report as follows:—"The school has been altogether a pleasant one. And I feel gratified to say that prosperity has attended us during the term. The scholars have manifested a good interest in their studies and readily complied with the requisitions of the school. They are entitled to commendation for the respect they have shown their teacher, and also for the uniform kindness with which they have treated each other." The district ought to make an effort for a new school house. The school merits it. Yes, parents, your children merit better accommodations.

It has been our design, in the foregoing report, to state the actual condition and success of the schools in town, as far as our limited space would allow.—We have had some good teachers, and some profitable schools the past year, but the fact cannot be disguised that some of our teachers have shown themselves to be but imperfectly qualified for the responsible position they have assumed.—A good teacher should not only have a *thorough knowledge of those branches of education taught in our common schools*, but he should be a person of *good morals*, have *good common sense*, an *aptness in imparting instruction*, a *love for his employment, energy and decision of character*, and he must also possess the *faculty of governing*, or all the former qualifications will be worthless. The teacher should realize that, for the time being, he occupies *the place of the parent*. Nothing unreasonable should ever be required of a scholar, but *order and obedience* should be maintained at all hazards. The teacher's authority should not be "harsh and arbitrary, but parental and kind."

Nearly every case of difficulty in the schools in this town for three years past, has been the result of the pernicious practice, adopted by some prudential committees, of employing for a teacher some near relation or particular friend without regard to their qualifications. The way to avoid this is for every man to be present at the annual meeting of the district. Select a man for prudential committee of *good common sense*, who is *deeply interested in the welfare of the school*, and who *will not accommodate a personal friend or relation at the sacrifice of the district*. Let him ascertain the wants of the school, and then employ a teacher adapted to those wants even if he has to pay a high price. *Cheap teachers are often the dearest in the end.*

Parents have frequently been urged to co-operate with the teacher in the important work of training the young for the responsible duties of life. Some parent may inquire what can I do to aid the teacher? We answer, do not allow your children to absent themselves from school except in cases of necessity.—Teach them to respect and obey the rules of the teacher. Try to interest them in their studies *at home*. Visit the school occasionally, and show by your presence that you feel an interest in its welfare. Never say anything in the presence of your children that would have a tendency to impair the teacher's influence. In closing we would earnestly urge upon your consideration the course recommended in our last report; "If in your opinion the teacher has erred, seek an early interview with him, and have a fair and candid understanding concerning the matter; if then this fails to accomplish a desirable result, there are other and proper means to which you can resort."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

STILLMAN A. ARNOLD, } Superintending  
JOHN P. CLOUGH, } School  
EDGAR A. ROWE, } Committee.







